

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Fishbein and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Natalia Maidique, I am from Westport and a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence. I am also a member of my school's Students Demand Action chapter.

I am testifying in favor of HB-6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders.

I care very deeply about protecting my community and family from gun violence, because I know how deeply it can fracture our hearts. The tragic stories from survivors and victims of gun violence have made it clear to me, over the years, that the only way to truly feel protected is to strengthen legislation about it. My experiences with false alarms about school shooters at Staples have only given me a taste of what it feels like to fear for your life at the hands of a gun, and I have no intention of ever feeling that way again, nor do I want anyone else to.

This bill would be instrumental in limiting who has access to guns, so that the people who are most at risk to hurt themselves or others won't have the resources to. Gun violence is such a heartbreaking epidemic *because* of the fact that it could be so easily prevented with stronger legislation. All I want is to be able to go to school without ever worrying that someone nearby could recklessly have a lethal weapon.

I ask that you favorably report HB-6355 out of committee so that the General Assembly can vote to strengthen our Extreme Risk Protection law so that it works harder to prevent firearm suicide and homicide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalia Maidique

Westport, CT